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TENNESSEE FARMERS REVEAL 2004 CROP ACREAGES

Based on a June survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service, planted acreage increased for soybeans, cotton, and tobacco, but declined for the State's other major crops. Corn, sorghum, wheat, and hay acreages all showed declines from the previous year. Mostly favorable weather throughout the spring allowed producers to plant their crops on schedule with only minor delays due to wet fields. Development has progressed at a pace ahead of the five-year average for most crops with conditions being rated in the good-to-excellent category. "Although the weather hasn't exactly cooperated with producers this spring, most finished planting on schedule and timely rains have provided excellent conditions for crop growth," stated State Director Debra Kenerson. Major crop acreages and expected changes from last year are as follows: **Soybeans**, 1.18 million acres, up 2 percent; **Corn**, 700,000 acres, down 10,000 acres; **Cotton**, 570,000 acres, up 2 percent; **Tobacco**, 31,380 acres, up 1 percent; and **Hay**, 1.97 million acres, down 3 percent.

COTTON ACREAGE UP FROM LAST YEAR

Tennessee's planted area for 2004 cotton is estimated at 570,000 acres, 2 percent above last year, but 20,000 acres less than March Intentions. Planting of the cotton crop began on schedule the last week of April, but quickly fell behind normal due to wet conditions. Wet, cool weather during the first of May resulted in some acreage lost due to flooding along the Mississippi river. Planting lagged behind last year and the normal pace in many areas up to 10 days. Favorable weather the last two weeks of May, however, allowed producers to make excellent progress and finish on schedule by month's end. Mild temperatures and ample moisture during June have enabled the crop to develop at a pace ahead of last year and normal. As of week ending June 27, 81 percent of the cotton acreage had reached the squaring stage and the crop was rated in mostly good-to-excellent condition.

SOYBEAN ACREAGE UP 2 PERCENT

The 2004 soybean planted area is estimated at 1.18 million acres, up 2 percent from last year, but unchanged from March Intentions. Tight U.S. supplies and a smaller than expected South American crop pushed soybean prices up to record levels this spring, helping fuel the increase in acreage. An estimated 32 percent of the acreage has been or will be planted following another harvested crop, compared with 28 percent for 2003. Area for harvest is estimated at 1.14 million acres, 2 percent above 2003. Planting began during the last week of April, just slightly behind normal due to wet conditions. By the end of May mild temperatures, along with drier conditions, had planting progressing ahead of the normal schedule and over two weeks ahead of last year. As of June 27, 90 percent of the acreage had been planted, continuing to outpace last year. Some producers are waiting on wheat harvest to finish planting their double-cropped beans. Eighty-eight percent of the crop was rated in good-to-excellent condition with 84 percent emerged.

CORN AND SORGHUM ACREAGE DECLINES

The State's corn acreage is at estimated 700,000 acres, up 50,000 acres from March Intentions, but 10,000 acres less than 2003. Growers expect to harvest 630,000 acres for grain, the same as a year earlier. Corn planting got off to an excellent start with over a fifth of the acreage seeded by the first of April, progressing almost a week ahead of schedule. By month's end, planting and development continued to advance ahead of both last year and the normal pace. However, heavy rains during the first week of May caused flooding in some river bottom fields. Some fields were re-planted as flooding and cool, wet soil conditions reduced stands and caused poor germination. The majority of acreage had been planted by mid-May. Currently, 71 percent of the crop has entered the silking stage with a third of the crop rated in excellent condition. Development continues to advance ahead of normal with no major insect or disease problems being reported. Area planted to sorghum in 2004 is estimated at 30,000 acres, down 15,000 from 2003 and 5,000 acres from March Intentions. Area for grain harvest is estimated at 25,000 acres, also down 15,000 acres from last year.

ALL TOBACCO ACREAGE UP SLIGHTLY

The State’s tobacco growers intend to harvest a total of 31,380 acres, up 240 acres from a year ago. By type, harvested area and change from 2003 for Tennessee’s tobacco crops are as follows: Type 31 **Burley**, 25,000 acres, unchanged from a year earlier; Type 22 **Eastern dark-fired**, 5,400 acres, up 200 acres; Type 23 **Western dark-fired**, 420 acres, up 20 acres; and Type 35 **dark air-cured**, 560 acres, also up 20 acres. Tobacco transplanting began during the last week of April, but was slowed due to wet weather conditions. Progress, however, was in line with the normal schedule throughout the month. As of June 27, the majority of the intended acreage had been transplanted, ahead of last year and on pace with normal. Although there have been reports of blue mold and black shank in some fields, the majority of the crop was rated in good-to-fair condition.

LOWEST WHEAT ACREAGE IN 19 YEARS

The 2003 winter wheat planted area is estimated at 400,000 acres, unchanged from last month, but 30,000 acres less than the previous year. If realized, this will be the lowest acreage since 1985. Anticipated area harvested for grain is 280,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from the 2003 total. Winter wheat planting was underway on schedule by the first week of October and timely rains during the month provided excellent soil moisture for germination. Three-fourths of the crop had been seeded and nearly half had emerged by month’s end. As of June 27, eighty-three percent of the crop had been harvested, ahead of last year but slightly behind the 5-year average.

HAY ACREAGE DOWN SLIGHTLY

Tennessee producers intend to harvest 1.98 million acres of hay in 2004, down 3 percent from last year. Alfalfa acreage is estimated at 25,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from a year earlier and the lowest recorded acreage since 1930. All other hay is estimated at 1.95 million acres, down 2 percent from 2003. Tennessee’s hay harvest got off to a slow start during the last week of April due to wet conditions. Frequent showers and thunderstorms continued into May, which delayed harvest and caused progress to lag behind normal. By the third week of May, however, favorable conditions allowed growers to make excellent progress as over half of both alfalfa and other had been harvested. As of June 27, over a fourth of the alfalfa hay acreage had been cut twice. Hay acreage has remained in mostly good condition throughout the growing season.

PLANTED AND HARVESTED ACRES OF PRINCIPAL CROPS: TENNESSEE AND U.S., 2003 - 2004

Crop	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2004 / 2003
	1,000 Acres		Percent		
TENNESSEE					
Corn	710	700	630	630	100
Cotton	560	570	530		-
Soybeans	1,150	1,180	1,120	1,140	102
Winter Wheat	430	400	270	280	104
Sorghum	45	30	40	25	63
Hay, all	-	-	2,030	1,975	97
Alfalfa	-	-	30	25	83
All other	-	-	2,000	1,950	98
Tobacco, all	-	-	31.14	31.38	101
Eastern dark-fired (22)	-	-	5.20	5.40	104
Western dark-fired (23)	-	-	.40	.42	105
Burley (31)	-	-	25.00	25.00	100
One sucker (35)	-	-	.54	.56	104
UNITED STATES					
Corn	78,736	80,968	71,139	73,362	103
Cotton ²	13,479.6	13,947.0	12,003.4		-
Soybeans	73,404	74,809	72,321	73,655	102
Winter Wheat	44,945	43,450	36,541	34,825	95
Sorghum	9,420	8,099	7,798	6,916	89
Hay, all	-	-	63,342	61,589	97
Alfalfa	-	-	23,578	22,226	94
All other	-	-	39,764	39,363	99
Tobacco, all	-	-	411.15	413.55	101
Eastern dark-fired (22)	-	-	7.80	8.10	104
Western dark-fired (23)	-	-	2.90	2.92	101
Burley (31)	-	-	152.30	156.30	103
One sucker (35)	-	-	2.84	2.86	101

¹Estimate to be released August 12, 2004. ²U.S. acreage includes American Pima cotton.